

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMCONSUL MILAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5187
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MILAN 0128

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, PINT, IT
SUBJECT: NEW LOMBARDY REGIONAL DC SECRETARY--GIUSEPPE GUZZETTI

SUMMARY: IN THE SECOND OF THREE DC PARTY SECRETARIAL POSITIONS TO BE FILLED, GIUSEPPE GUZZETTI WAS ELECTED REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR LOMBARDY ON JANUARY 10. A SUP-PORTER OF REGIONAL PRESIDENT GOLFARI AND MEMBER OF LEFT WING (BASE) FACTION, GUZZETTI DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS FIRMLY OPPOSED TO COMMUNIST MEMBERSHIP IN EITHER LOCAL OR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. HE IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT REGENERATION OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN LOMBARDY, FAVORABLE TO A REASSUMPTION OF MOVEMENT TOWARD EUROPEAN UNIFICATION, FRIENDLY TO US AND OPPOSED TO EARLY ITALIAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JANUARY 10 CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC REGIONAL EXECUTIVE CHOSE BASE REPRESENTATIVE GIUSEPPE GUZZETTI, LAWYER FROM PROVINCE OF COMO AND A CLOSE SUP-PORTER OF REGIONAL PRESIDENT GOLFARI AS REGIONAL SECRE-TARY. GUZZETTI BY NO MEANS HAD CLEAR-CUT LEFT WING MAJORITY BUT RATHER ONE EMBRACING CENTER VOTES AS WELL
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WHICH LEAVES IMPLICATIONS OF HIS ELECTION OPEN TO CLAIMS OF SUCCESS BY BOTH LEFT AND CENTER.

2. GUZZETTI, A RELATIVELY NEW FACE ON REGIONAL POLITICAL HORIZON, IS AN EXPERIENCED LOCAL LEADER IN PROVINCE OF COMO. 42 YEARS OF AGE, HE IS A SERIOUS APPEARING AND NOT PARTICULARLY CHARISMATIC PERSON NOW DC MAJOR-

ITY LEADER IN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY. SINCE HIS ELECTION AS REGIONAL SECRETARY, HE HAS COMMITTED HIMSELF ALMOST FULL TIME TO PARTY WORK BUT, LIKE MOST OTHER DC OFFICIALS, WILL KEEP HIS HAND IN HIS PRIVATE BUSINESS, IN THIS CASE LAW.

3. GUZZETTI INTERPRETED PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN LOMBARDY AS A RECOVERY BY LEFT WING GROUPS AFTER INITIAL DE CAROLIS ONSLAUGHT EARLIER IN YEAR. GUZZETTI INSISTS THAT LEFT WING GROUPS HAVE REUNITED AND CONTINUE TO HAVE A MAJORITY THROUGHOUT REGION IF NOT IN PROVINCE AND CITY OF MILAN. HE INTERPRETS PROGRAMMATIC DOCUMENTS ADOPTED BY REGIONAL EXECUTIVE AS AN ENDORSEMENT OF GOLFARI LOMBARDY REGIONAL FORMULA IN WHICH COMMUNISTS ARE CONSULTED AROUND TABLE WITH OTHER PARTIES ON PROGRAM QUESTIONS. THAT, HE MAINTAINS, WAS CENTRAL POINT AT ISSUE AND CENTER AND RIGHT WERE DEFEATED IN THEIR EFFORT DISOWN THIS FORMULA.

4. ACCORDING TO GUZZETTI, ISSUES ARE REALLY LESS IMPORTANT THAN INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED. STRUGGLE WITHIN DC IN LOMBARDY IS PRIMARILY ONE OF INDIVIDUALS ATTEMPTING CARVE OUT A POSITION OF INFLUENCE AND POWER WITHIN PARTY STRUCTURE. IN ORDER TO DO THAT, THEY HAVE ACCENTUATED CERTAIN RELATIVELY MINOR POLICY DIFFERENCES. IN FACT, SAID GUZZETTI, ALL DC'S IN LOMBARDY ARE AGREED THAT FORMULA IN LOMBARDY AND ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT IN ROME ARE FARTHEST THAT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS SHOULD GO IN ACCOMMODATING COMMUNISTS. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD COMMUNISTS BE ADMITTED TO

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GOVERNMENT IN ROME OR TO REGIONAL GOVERNMENT IN LOMBARDY. THAT POSITION, HE SAID, IS SHARED BY LEFT WING WHICH REALIZES THAT ANY FURTHER CONCESSIONS WOULD RISK SPLITTING DC.

5. ACCORDING TO GUZZETTI, REAL ISSUE THAT DIVIDES HIS SUPPORTERS FROM THOSE OF DE CAROLIS IS WHETHER DC SHOULD PRESS FOR EARLY ELECTIONS. WHILE HE MAINTAINS THAT DC WOULD IMPROVE POSITION IN NEW ELECTIONS HELD NOW, HE BELIEVES THAT RESULT WOULD BE FURTHER POLARIZATION BETWEEN DC AND PCI WHICH WOULD LEAVE ITALY UNGOVERNABLE AND FACED WITH RISK OF CONFLICT. HE FORESEES VIRTUAL ELIMINATION OF SOCIALISTS AND OTHER MINOR LAY PARTIES. BETTER APPROACH, IN GUZZETTI'S VIEW, IS TO KEEP COMMUNISTS OUT OF GOVERNMENT BUT FIND WAYS SECURE THEIR SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC POLICES NEEDED OVERCOME ITALY'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CRISIS. HE CLAIMS THAT IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE COMMUNISTS REALIZE THAT THEY HAVE NO REAL ALTERNATIVE TO ACCEPTING MINORITY GOVERNMENT.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MILAN 0128

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6. DC, HE SAID, IS IN PHASE OF RENEWAL. PRACTICALLY ALL PROVINCIAL SECRETARIES IN LOMBARDY WERE NEW AND THERE IS INFLUX OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WANT TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN PARTY POLITICS. THAT'S A CHANGE FROM RECENT PAST THAT HE WELCOMES ALTHOUGH IT MEANS A GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE TO INTEGRATE THEM. HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY YOUTH SUPPORT AND POINTED OUT THAT IN JUNE 1976 ELECTIONS, DC HAD GOTTEN AS LARGE A SHARE YOUTH VOTE AS OF OLDER POPULATION WHICH DEMONSTRATED THAT COMMUNISTS NOT WALKING AWAY WITH ITALY'S YOUTH. FURTHERMORE, GUZZETTI WAS ENCOURAGED BY IAGE THAT PARTY HAD BEEN DEVELOPING SINCE ANDREOTTI HAD TAKEN OVER IN ROME. PARTY WAS LOOKING A LOT BETTER IN EYES OF PUBLIC BECAUSE OF ACTIVITY THAT ANDREOTTI DEMONSTRATING, BECAUSE GOVERNMENT WAS COMING TO GRIPS WITH REAL PROBLEMS AND SHOWING SOME RESULTS, BECAUSE MANY HISTORIC DC FIGURES WERE DISAPPEARING FROM SCENE AND WERE NO LONGER MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT AND BECAUSE ANDREOTTI GAVE IMPRESSION OF DILIGENT LEADER WHO SPOKE A LANGUAGE THAT AVERAGE MAN UNDERSTOOD.

7. YOUNG PEOPLE, ACORDING TO GUZZETTI, WERE ALSO STRONG SUPPORTERS OF EUROPEAN UNIFICATION, AS WAS HE. IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THIS PROCESS GO FORWARD AS IT WAS
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ONLY LONG TERM SOLUTION TO ITALY'S POLITICAL PROBLEMS. HE HOPED UNITED STATES WOULD TAKE A MORE ACTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE THAN HAD BEEN CASE IN PAST. HE DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS EXCITED ABOUT PROSPECTS OF NEW US ADMINISTRATION WHICH SEEMED TO BE GIVING MORE ATTENTION TO WESTERN EUROPE THAN ITS PREDECESSOR. A UNITED WESTERN EUROPE, HE SAID, COULD DO A GREAT DEAL TO STRENGTHEN WEST AGAINST INFLUENCE OF SOVIET UNION AND COMMUNISM. IT COULD ALSO PROVIDE AN ASSURANCE TO THE SOVIET UNION THAT GERMANY WOULD NOT BE AN AGGRESSIVE FORCE. AND HE SAW IT AS A BRIDGE TO IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH LDC'S.

8. AS FOR ECONOMIC SITUATION, GUZZETTI THOUGHT NATIONAL AND LOMBARDY PICTURE DARK AND CAUSE FOR CONCERN. HOWEVER, SITUATION IN HIS OWN COMO WAS REMARKABLY GOOD. BOTH SILK AND FURNITURE INDUSTRY WERE WORKING AT FULL BLAST AND HAD AN ABUNDANCE OF FOREIGN ORDERS WHICH THEY WERE HARD PUT TO FILL.

9. GUZZETTI, WHO HAS A DISC PROBLEM AND OBSERVES RIGID DIET TO KEEP HIS WEIGHT DOWN, IS A SERIOUS, FRIENDLY, PRO-AMERICAN WHO SEEMS VERY WELL CAPABLE OF HANDLING WHOLE RANGE OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC QUESTIONS THAT CONFRONT A SENIOR PARTY OFFICIAL AT REGIONAL LEVEL. HE DOES NOT STRIKE OBSERVER AS AN INNOVATOR, A CHARISMATIC LEADER, OR AN OLD TIME POLITICAL BOSS. RATHER, HE APPEARS TO BE A DIRECT, WELL-BALANCED, FAIRLY UNDEMONSTRATIVE AND VERY SERIOUS YOUNGER GENERATION DC WHO KNOWS WHERE THE BODIES ARE BURIED AND IS FAIRLY HOPEFUL ABOUT FUTURE. NOTABLE THAT HE SAYS ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE HELPING LOCAL PARTY. LOCAL DC LEADERS HAVE MORE OFTEN CONDEMNED PERFORMANCE OF PREVIOUS DC GOVERNMENTS IN ROME AS DOING THEM MORE HARM THAN GOOD.FINA

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